



Dear Woolf Friends,

To coin a phrase, love was in the air last week. St Valentine's Day: supermarket deals on prosecco and roses; love bomb cards with their somewhat predictable messages all over the place. But what does our familiar commercial February extravaganza really tell us about this most profound and mysterious concept?

The Greeks had no less than six words for it but most of us recognize these four; Eros – sexual passion (more of that later); Philia – deep friendship; Philautia – self-love; and Agape – love for everyone. This last approximates to unconditional love and will be explored in an upcoming NAKED REFLECTIONS podcast *'LOVING THE OTHER'*.

But what of Eros? It is instructive to compare Jewish and Islamic belief and practice on this matter with Christian tradition. Saint Paul wrote:

'Perfect chastity is a higher condition than the married state, and the intercourse of married persons, of husband and wife, is condoned and allowed, not commanded'.

In Catholic doctrine when it comes to sexual intimacy, the procreative process is strongly emphasised over anything else. For priests, celibacy is still insisted on. But in Jewish and Islamic practice and belief there is more room for the enjoyment of human intimacy for its own sake, a blessing given by God. Having said that, the Anglican marriage sacrament, taken from the Book of Common Prayer, hints at a more celebratory approach in the wonderful words *with my body I thee worship*.



Upcoming Events

14 February

Antizionism as
Political Propaganda



21 February

Faculty Rights and
Responsibilities in
Conflict With
Antisemitism



22 February

Auslander Lecture
Cambridge



23 February

Auslander Lecture
London
(by invitation only)



1 March



Some psychiatrists have suggested that romantic love with its mare's nest of projection and delusion approaches the status of psychosis. In my youth I might have gone along with that, but these days I'm with Freud. Human passion with all its wonder and mystery is what he called the life force, and it is indeed in a straightforwardly biological way the life blood of a continuing humanity. Which brings us back in a strange sort of way to the Catholic emphasis on procreation. An atheistic Jew and the Church of Rome have perhaps more in common than they might have bargained for.

Best wishes,

David Perry
Woolf Media Consultant & Producer

Spiritual and
Religious Identity(ies)
and Dramatherapy:
To Hide or Reveal?



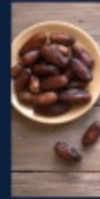
27 March

Barbarians and
Romans: dynamics
of integration in Late
Antique Hispania



30 March

Iftar



27 April

Woolf Institute in
New York



6 June

Woolf Institute
Garden Party



Wednesday 22 February 2023 @17:00

The day Kafka killed his iPhone

by Shalom Auslander

WOOLF INSTITUTE | KC SHASHA SUITE
MADINGLEY ROAD | CAMBRIDGE | CB3 0UB

Shalom is the first recipient of the Peter Gilbert Prize, an award jointly supported by the Woolf Institute and Jewish Renaissance.



Scan the QR code
to register



On Wednesday 22 February 2023, renowned US author Shalom Auslander will speak on 'The day Kafka killed his iPhone'. Shalom is the first recipient of the Peter Gilbert Prize, an award jointly supported by the Woolf Institute (Cambridge) and Jewish Renaissance.

This literary honour is given to the writer of the best article from Jewish Renaissance magazine, as judged by an expert panel. "This award should engage the contribution of the Jewish creative spirit to the intellectual and artistic life of the 20th century," said Adam Glinsman, who established the

prize, which is named for his much-loved uncle. Shalom won the award for his imaginative, humorous and perceptive insight into Franz Kafka and the great writer's relationship with his home city, Prague.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



RESEARCH DAY AT MISHCON DE REYA

Last week Woolf researchers were invited to present their various projects at a research evening and to discuss their impacts. Thank you, Mishcon de Reya LLP for hosting us and organising such a great event.





Woolf Institute In New York

27 April 2023



THE WOOLF INSTITUTE IS GOING TO NEW YORK

At the end of April, The Woolf Institute will be visiting New York. We will be meeting alumni and friends, and Dr Katherine O'Lone will be giving a talk based on her research at the Cambridge in America offices on 6th Avenue on 27th April. More details will follow shortly.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. In this talk, Dr Katherine O'Lone will explore the psychological and moral landscape of post-conflict Northern Ireland. Dr O'Lone argues that we can better understand peace by exploring the patterns surrounding how people think about reconciliation, forgiveness and justice in the aftermath of violent conflict. In Northern Ireland, despite the passage of twenty-five years since the GFA, the scars of 'The Troubles' continue to influence how people reason and think about moral issues, such as fairness, harm and justice. The conflict has ended but this talk suggests the ghosts are still there.

The talk will be followed by questions and discussion, and a reception to which all are welcome.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT FLORA MOFFIE

GOOD LUCK

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

A LIGHT- HEARTED DISCUSSION ABOUT
POSITIVE THINKING IN BAD TIMES...



PODCAST: GOOD LUCK

A light- hearted discussion about positive thinking in bad times.

Can positive thinking create its own momentum, or to put it another way, does negativity reap its own bad harvest? Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner and Robert Tombs read the runes.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

COMING SOON

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

THE POLITICS OF MUSIC

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

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